

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, HU
SUBJECT: MINDSZENTY BIOGRAPHER'S REQUEST FOR
INTERVIEW/ASSISTANCE FROM CONGEN OFFICER

1. DR. EMIL CSONKA, A U.S. CITIZEN AND RFE EMPLOYEE WHO HAS AUTHORED A BOOK (A SZAMUEZOETT BIBOROS) ABOUT THE LATE CARDINAL JOZSEF MINDSZENTY'S LIFE AFTER LEAVING AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BUDAPEST IN 1971, HAS APPROACHED CONGEN POLOFF GILMORE WITH REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN PREPARATION OF A NEW BOOK ABOUT THE CARDINAL.
2. ACCORDING TO CSONKA, THE MINDSZENTY FOUNDATION, WHICH IS LOCATED IN VADUZ, LIECHTENSTEIN, HAS COMMISSIONED HIM TO PREPARE A BOOK DEALING WITH THE 15 YEARS (NOV 1956- SEPT 1971) MINDSZENTY SPENT IN US LEGATION/EMBASSY IN BUDAPEST. BOOK IS TO CONSIST MAINLY OF ITEMS DRAWN FROM DIARY WHICH THE CARDINAL KEPT DURING THESE 15 YEARS. CSONKA INDICATED THAT DIARY CONSISTED INTER ALIA OF CARDINAL'S DESCRIPTION OF HIS DREAMS, LISTS OF HIS VISITORS AND ACCOUNTS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF US LEGATION/EMBASSY STAFF. BOOK WILL ALSO CONTAIN CHAPTER WRITTEN BY DR. CSONKA DESCRIBING MINDSZENTY'S DAILY

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EXISTENCE AT LEGATION/EMBASSY.

3. CSONKA APPEARS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH AT LEAST SEVERAL OTHER PERSONS WHO SERVED ON US LEGATION/EMBASSY STAFF DURING 1956-71. CSONKA PRESENTED GILMORE WITH LIST OF PERSONS MENTIONED IN MINDSZENTY'S DIARY FROM 1957-71. LIST, WHICH IS BROKEN DOWN BY YEAR, CONSISTS OF INITIALS,

LAST NAMES, FIRST NAMES AND/OR FULL NAMES OF AMERICAN AND HUNGARIAN MEMBERS OF LEGATION/EMBASSYSTAFF. CSONKA REQUESTS GILMORE'S ASSISTANCE IN ASCERTAINING: CORRECT SPELLING- OF NAMES, TITLES HELD, AND POSITIONS OCCUPIED BY PERSONS INCLUDED IN LIST.

4. CSONKA ALSO ASKED GILMORE IF HE WOULD CONSENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CARDINAL'S LIFE AT THE LEGATION DURING PERIOD GILMORE SERVED AS VICE CONSUL/CONSUL, I.E. JULY 1965-67. HE SUPPLIED A LIST OF QUESTIONS WHICH RUN GAMUT FROM DESCRIPTION OF THE CARDINAL'S DAILY SCHEDULE, HIS RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN AND HUNGARIAN EMPLOYEES, HIS COMMAND OF ENGLISH TO UNUSUAL EVENTS WHICH TRANSPIRED DURING HIS STAY.

5. GILMORE SUGGESTED THAT CSONKA WRITE TO DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN FOR ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING NAMES OF PERSONS MENTIONED IN MINDSZENTY'S DIARY. GILMORE SAID THAT HE WOULD DEFER RESPONSE TO CSONKA'S REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW AND ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING LEGATION/EMBASSY PERSONNEL UNTIL HE HAD COMMUNICATED WITH DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

6. CSONKA EMPHASIZED THAT HE IS US CITIZEN AND AS SUCH WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PUT FRIENDLY INTERPRETATION ON EVENTS WHICH TRANSPIRED DURING PERIOD OF CARDINAL'S ASYLUM IN LEGATION/EMBASSY.
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7. GILMORE WILLING TO ASSIST CSONKA IN IDENTIFYING NAMES OF PERSONNEL, ETC. ONLY RPT ONLY IF THIS CONSISTENT WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY. GILMORE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO GIVE WRITTEN ANSWERS TO SOME RPT SOME OF CSONKA'S QUESTIONS IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS.

8. COPIES OF LIST OF NAMES/INITIALS CONTAINED IN MINDSZENTY'S DIARY AND QUESTIONS CSONKA WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS TO GILMORE POUCHED TO EUR/EE (GERTH) APRIL 19 UNDER REGISTRY NO. 3217242. BETTS

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